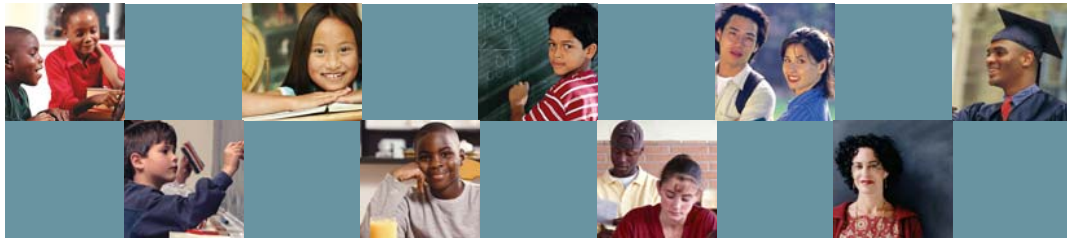


# the condition of education 2006



## INDICATOR 11

### Participation in Adult Education

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Adult Learning

## Participation in Adult Education

*The percentage of the population age 16 or older participating in adult education increased from 1995 to 2001 and then declined in 2005. Work-related courses and personal interest courses were the most popular forms of adult education in 2005.*

Adult education activities are formal activities including basic skills training, apprenticeships, work-related courses, personal interest courses, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and part-time college or university degree programs.<sup>1</sup> This indicator examines the participation rates in adult education activities of individuals age 16 or older.

Overall participation in adult education among individuals age 16 or older increased from 40 percent in 1995 to 46 percent in 2001 and then declined to 44 percent in 2005 (see supplemental table 11-1). In 2005, among the various types of adult education activities, individuals age 16 or older participated most in work-related courses (27 percent), followed by personal interest courses (21 percent), part-time college or university degree programs (5 percent), and other activities (3 percent).

Participation rates varied by sex, age, race/ethnicity, employment/occupation, and education (see supplemental table 11-2). For example, a greater percentage of females than males participated in personal interest courses (24 vs. 18 percent) and work-related activities (29 vs. 25 percent). Individuals ages 16–24 had a higher overall participation rate in adult education activities than their counterparts age 55 or older. Blacks and Whites had higher rates of overall participation in adult education than their Hispanic peers. Among those employed in the past 12 months, the overall participation rate in adult education was higher for those in a professional or managerial occupation (70 percent) than for those employed in service, sales, or support jobs (48 percent) or those in trade occupations (34 percent). In addition, the overall participation rate in adult education for bachelor's degree recipients or higher was greater than for those individuals who had some college or less education.

<sup>1</sup> Full-time participation for all or part of the year in a college or university degree program or a vocational or technical diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

<sup>2</sup> Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

NOTE: The survey population includes civilian, noninstitutionalized individuals age 16 or older who are not enrolled in elementary or secondary school. There were differences in questionnaire structure, wording, and response options in the 1995, 1999, 2001, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) questionnaires that could affect the measurement of course participation. The sample includes individuals who speak Spanish but not English.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 1995, 1999, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the 2001 NHES, previously unpublished tabulation (November 2005).

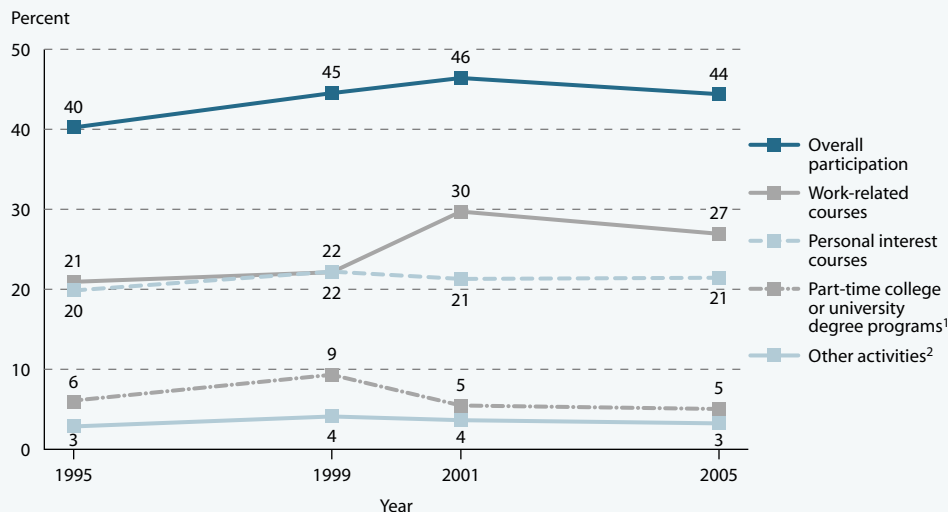
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Supplemental Notes 1,3

Supplemental Tables 11-1, 11-2



**ADULT EDUCATION: Percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by type of activity: Selected years, 1995–2005**



## Participation in Adult Education

**Table 11-1. Percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by age and type of activity: Selected years, 1995–2005**

| Type of activity                                   | 1995 | 1999 | 2001 | 2005 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Age 16 or older</b>                             |      |      |      |      |
| Overall participation                              | 40.2 | 44.5 | 46.4 | 44.4 |
| Work-related courses                               | 20.9 | 22.1 | 29.7 | 26.9 |
| Personal interest courses                          | 19.9 | 22.2 | 21.3 | 21.4 |
| College or university degree programs <sup>1</sup> | 6.1  | 9.3  | 5.5  | 5.0  |
| Other activities <sup>2</sup>                      | 2.9  | 4.1  | 3.6  | 3.2  |
| <b>Ages 16–24</b>                                  |      |      |      |      |
| Overall participation                              | 47.0 | 50.1 | 52.8 | 52.9 |
| Work-related courses                               | 14.6 | 16.3 | 22.3 | 21.2 |
| Personal interest courses                          | 21.5 | 22.7 | 27.6 | 26.6 |
| College or university degree programs <sup>1</sup> | 12.6 | 13.6 | 12.8 | 11.4 |
| Other activities <sup>2</sup>                      | 8.7  | 11.6 | 11.5 | 9.7  |
| <b>Age 25 or older</b>                             |      |      |      |      |
| Overall participation                              | 39.3 | 43.8 | 45.6 | 43.2 |
| Work-related courses                               | 21.8 | 22.9 | 30.7 | 27.7 |
| Personal interest courses                          | 19.6 | 22.1 | 20.5 | 20.7 |
| College or university degree programs <sup>1</sup> | 5.2  | 8.7  | 4.5  | 4.2  |
| Other activities <sup>2</sup>                      | 2.1  | 3.1  | 2.6  | 2.4  |

<sup>1</sup> Full-time participation for all or part of the year in a college or university degree program or a vocational or technical diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

<sup>2</sup> Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

NOTE: The survey population includes civilian, noninstitutionalized individuals age 16 or older who are not enrolled in elementary or secondary school. There were differences in questionnaire structure, wording, and response options in the 1995, 1999, 2001, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) questionnaires that could affect the measurement of course participation.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 1995, 1999, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the 2001 NHES, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2006).

## Participation in Adult Education

**Table 11-2. Percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by type of activity and selected characteristics: 2005**

| Characteristic                               | Overall participation | Type of adult education activity                             |                      |                           |                               |
|--|-----------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  |                       | Part-time college or university degree programs <sup>1</sup> | Work-related courses | Personal interest courses | Other activities <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>44.4</b>           | <b>5.0</b>   | <b>26.9</b>          | <b>21.4</b>               | <b>3.2</b>                    |
| Sex  |                       |  |                      |                           |                               |
| Male   | 41.1                  | 5.0  | 24.5                 | 18.4                      | 3.9                           |
| Female                                       | 47.5                  | 5.1  | 29.2                 | 24.3                      | 2.6                           |
| Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>                  |                       |  |                      |                           |                               |
| White  | 45.6                  | 4.9  | 29.1                 | 22.2                      | 2.1                           |
| Black  | 46.4                  | 5.4  | 27.0                 | 23.7                      | 3.4                           |
| Hispanic                                     | 37.6                  | 4.9  | 16.8                 | 15.3                      | 9.8                           |
| Asian/Pacific Islander                       | 44.0                  | ‡  | 24.3                 | 23.5                      | ‡                             |
| Education                                    |                       |  |                      |                           |                               |
| Less than high school                        | 22.1                  | ‡  | 4.2                  | 11.1                      | 9.2                           |
| High school diploma or equivalent            | 32.6                  | 2.6  | 16.5                 | 16.1                      | 2.9                           |
| Some college, including vocational/technical | 51.4                  | 7.7  | 31.4                 | 24.9                      | 2.5                           |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                  | 62.5                  | 7.3  | 46.2                 | 29.5                      | ‡                             |
| Age  |                       |  |                      |                           |                               |
| 16–24  | 52.9                  | 11.4   | 21.2                 | 26.6                      | 9.7                           |
| 25–34  | 52.2                  | 8.7  | 31.7                 | 22.1                      | 6.7                           |
| 35–44  | 48.7                  | 5.3  | 33.7                 | 22.1                      | 2.1                           |
| 45–54  | 47.9                  | 3.8  | 36.5                 | 19.7                      | 1.4                           |
| 55–64  | 40.3                  | 1.5  | 27.0                 | 20.7                      | ‡                             |
| 65 or older                                  | 22.9                  | ‡  | 5.2                  | 18.8                      | ‡                             |
| Household income                             |                       |  |                      |                           |                               |
| \$15,000 or less                             | 29.0                  | 2.8  | 10.9                 | 17.9                      | 4.8                           |
| \$15,001–30,000                              | 30.7                  | 4.9  | 14.6                 | 15.1                      | 3.9                           |
| \$30,001–50,000                              | 42.1                  | 3.3  | 22.6                 | 21.8                      | 4.3                           |
| \$50,001–75,000                              | 47.7                  | 5.8  | 33.0                 | 20.5                      | ‡                             |
| More than \$75,000                           | 57.6                  | 6.7  | 39.0                 | 27.0                      | 2.7                           |
| Employment/occupation                        |                       |  |                      |                           |                               |
| Employed in past 12 months                   | 51.7                  | 6.4  | 35.9                 | 22.0                      | 3.5                           |
| Professional or managerial                   | 70.2                  | 8.8  | 56.3                 | 29.2                      | ‡                             |
| Services, sales, or support                  | 48.3                  | 6.3  | 30.6                 | 22.0                      | 3.6                           |
| Trades                                       | 34.0                  | 3.3  | 18.7                 | 12.9                      | 6.3                           |
| Not employed in past 12 months               | 25.5                  | 1.6  | 4.0                  | 20.0                      | 2.6                           |

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

<sup>1</sup> Full-time participation for all or part of the year in a college or university degree program or a vocational or technical diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

<sup>2</sup> Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

<sup>3</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, and Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: The survey population includes civilian, noninstitutionalized individuals age 16 or older who are not enrolled in elementary or secondary school. The sample also includes individuals who speak Spanish but not English.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), previously unpublished tabulation (February 2006).

# Participation in Adult Education

Table S11. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by type of activity: Selected years, 1995–2005

| Type of activity                                | 1995 | 1999 | 2001 | 2005 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Overall participation                           | 0.5  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.7  |
| Work-related courses                            | 0.4  | 0.6  | 0.5  | 0.6  |
| Personal interest courses                       | 0.3  | 0.6  | 0.5  | 0.7  |
| Part-time college or university degree programs | 0.2  | 0.4  | 0.2  | 0.3  |
| Other activities                                | 0.1  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3  |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 1995, 1999, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the 2001 NHES, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2006).

## Participation in Adult Education

**Table S11-1. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by age and type of activity: Selected years, 1995–2005**

| Type of activity                      | 1995 | 1999 | 2001 | 2005 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Age 16 or older</b>                |      |      |      |      |
| Overall participation                 | 0.48 | 0.74 | 0.55 | 0.74 |
| Work-related courses                  | 0.36 | 0.58 | 0.47 | 0.63 |
| Personal interest courses             | 0.33 | 0.62 | 0.54 | 0.71 |
| College or university degree programs | 0.16 | 0.43 | 0.23 | 0.29 |
| Other activities                      | 0.11 | 0.32 | 0.25 | 0.31 |
| <b>Ages 16–24</b>                     |      |      |      |      |
| Overall participation                 | 1.12 | 2.70 | 2.02 | 2.71 |
| Work-related courses                  | 0.77 | 1.63 | 1.66 | 2.20 |
| Personal interest courses             | 0.91 | 2.28 | 1.57 | 2.56 |
| College or university degree programs | 0.70 | 1.34 | 1.30 | 1.33 |
| Other activities                      | 0.63 | 1.72 | 1.33 | 1.66 |
| <b>Age 25 or older</b>                |      |      |      |      |
| Overall participation                 | 0.51 | 0.77 | 0.55 | 0.80 |
| Work-related courses                  | 0.41 | 0.61 | 0.51 | 0.69 |
| Personal interest courses             | 0.38 | 0.63 | 0.53 | 0.74 |
| College or university degree programs | 0.14 | 0.44 | 0.20 | 0.27 |
| Other activities                      | 0.10 | 0.26 | 0.22 | 0.27 |

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 1995, 1999, and 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the 2001 NHES, previously unpublished tabulation (January 2006).

## Participation in Adult Education

**Table S11-2. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 or older who participated in adult education activities, by type of activity and selected characteristics: 2005**

| Characteristic                               | Overall participation | Type of adult education activity                |                      |                           |                  |
|--|-----------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
|  |                       | Part-time college or university degree programs | Work-related courses | Personal interest courses | Other activities |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>0.74</b>           | <b>0.29</b>                                     | <b>0.63</b>          | <b>0.71</b>               | <b>0.31</b>      |
| Sex  |                       |   |                      |                           |                  |
| Male   | 1.20                  | 0.44  | 0.99                 | 1.08                      | 0.58             |
| Female                                       | 1.01                  | 0.37  | 0.95                 | 0.88                      | 0.26             |
| Race/ethnicity                               |                       |   |                      |                           |                  |
| White  | 0.84                  | 0.35  | 0.70                 | 0.87                      | 0.31             |
| Black  | 2.81                  | 0.97  | 2.53                 | 2.11                      | 0.84             |
| Hispanic                                     | 2.43                  | 1.05  | 1.71                 | 1.75                      | 1.54             |
| Asian/Pacific Islander                       | 4.58                  | †   | 3.90                 | 4.26                      | †                |
| Education                                    |                       |   |                      |                           |                  |
| Less than high school                        | 1.67                  | †   | 0.73                 | 1.16                      | 1.34             |
| High school diploma or equivalent            | 1.49                  | 0.36  | 1.08                 | 1.17                      | 0.47             |
| Some college, including vocational/technical | 1.44                  | 0.81  | 1.28                 | 1.36                      | 0.50             |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                  | 1.24                  | 0.60  | 1.35                 | 1.15                      | †                |
| Age  |                       |   |                      |                           |                  |
| 16–24  | 2.71                  | 1.33  | 2.20                 | 2.56                      | 1.66             |
| 25–34  | 2.23                  | 0.93  | 1.80                 | 1.83                      | 1.13             |
| 35–44  | 1.97                  | 0.56  | 2.06                 | 1.91                      | 0.40             |
| 45–54  | 1.49                  | 0.40  | 1.38                 | 1.24                      | 0.28             |
| 55–64  | 2.01                  | 0.30  | 1.63                 | 1.30                      | †                |
| 65 or older                                  | 1.10                  | †   | 0.68                 | 1.09                      | †                |
| Household income                             |                       |   |                      |                           |                  |
| \$15,000 or less                             | 2.39                  | 0.67  | 1.64                 | 2.29                      | 0.85             |
| \$15,001–30,000                              | 1.67                  | 0.90  | 1.46                 | 1.18                      | 0.61             |
| \$30,001–50,000                              | 1.90                  | 0.45  | 1.48                 | 1.50                      | 0.88             |
| \$50,001–75,000                              | 1.74                  | 0.69  | 1.37                 | 1.67                      | †                |
| More than \$75,000                           | 1.48                  | 0.58  | 1.35                 | 1.12                      | 0.74             |
| Employment/occupation                        |                       |   |                      |                           |                  |
| Employed in past 12 months                   | 0.90                  | 0.37  | 0.80                 | 0.89                      | 0.42             |
| Professional or managerial                   | 1.56                  | 0.71  | 1.58                 | 1.56                      | †                |
| Services, sales, or support                  | 1.48                  | 0.56  | 1.49                 | 1.31                      | 0.61             |
| Trades                                       | 2.22                  | 0.64  | 1.62                 | 1.56                      | 1.27             |
| Not employed in past 12 months               | 1.37                  | 0.32  | 0.59                 | 1.06                      | 0.40             |

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), previously unpublished tabulation (February 2006).